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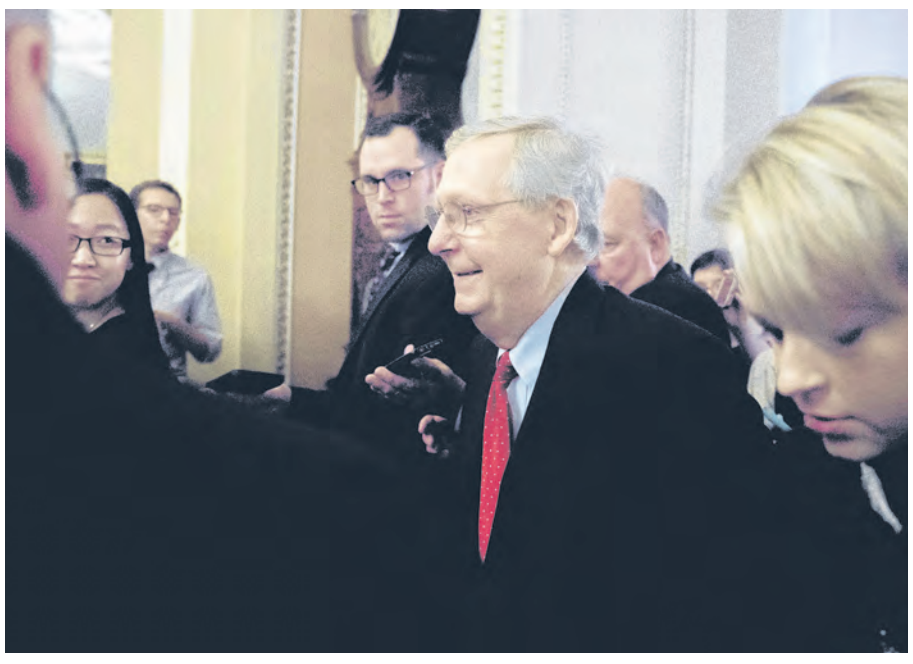
SENATE TAX PLAN

GOP CLOSE TO PASSING OVERHAUL



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Telling reporters "we have the votes" on the tax plan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., walks to the chamber Friday after a meeting with GOP lawmakers.

Final vote shaping up to be 51-49 in favor

Corker, R-Tenn., may be lone GOP holdout

Final bill must be reconciled with House version

BY ERICA WERNER AND DAMIAN PALETTA
Washington Post

WASHINGTON • Senate Republicans were heading early Saturday toward passage of a $1.5 trillion tax bill that would bestow massive benefits on corporate America and the wealthy while delivering mixed blessings to everybody else.

After a frantic round of negotiations, Republicans came together in near unanimity behind the legislation. The vote on final passage was shaping up to be 51-49, with Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., the lone GOP holdout.

Corker

The measure would still have to be reconciled with an earlier House-passed version before being sent to President Donald Trump. Yet in getting the bill through the Senate, Republicans would have succeed where they failed earlier this year, when their efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act collapsed in mortifying fashion.

This time, urged on by donors and fearful of facing voters in next year's midterm elections without a legislative

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RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

FLYNN PLEADS GUILTY TO LYING TO FBI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, leaves federal court in Washington on Friday.

Former Trump adviser cooperates with Mueller

Kushner implicated in ongoing investigation

Trump's attorney plays down impact of deal

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON • Former national security adviser Michael Flynn pleaded guilty Friday to lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. In an ominous sign for the White House, Flynn said he was cooperating in the ongoing probe by special counsel Robert Mueller of potential coordination between the campaign of Donald Trump and the Kremlin to influence the 2016 election.

When Flynn was forced out of the White House in February, officials said

Kushner

he had misled the administration, including Vice President Mike Pence, about his contacts with Kislyak. But court records and people familiar with the contacts indicated he was acting in consultation with senior Trump transition officials, including President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, in his dealings with the diplomat.

Flynn's plea revealed that he was in touch with senior Trump transition officials before and after his communications with the ambassador.

See FLYNN • Page A6

Normandy schools receive provisional accreditation

BY KRISTEN TAKETA
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • Just three years after an unprecedented and turbulent state takeover, the Normandy school system will regain provisional accreditation, a major step toward restoring its status in the eyes of the public.

The Missouri Board of Education voted unanimously Friday to upgrade Normandy's accreditation effective Jan. 2, citing improvements in not just academics but system leadership and school culture.

"It would be wrong to deny the children and the Normandy community this status," board member Mike Jones said. "The reality is, this is a good day."

With the vote to provisionally re-accredit Normandy, no school district in

See NORMANDY • Page A5

County police reprimand 11 MetroLink officers

BY MARK SCHLINKMANN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS COUNTY • Eleven St. Louis County police officers assigned to patrol MetroLink were issued written reprimands — some for loitering in Metro security offices and others for covering security cameras in the offices.

County police, in a news release issued Friday, also said several other allegations of misconduct were determined to be "unfounded or not substantiated" in a 16-week internal affairs investigation of the department's MetroLink unit.

Twelve reprimands were issued, with two going to one officer. The officers' names were not released. The reprimands concern six incidents between December 2015 and last July at MetroLink's Clayton and North Hanley stations.

SURVEILLANCE VIDEO

Surveillance video shows an unidentified St. Louis County Police officer apparently placing a sheet of paper over a security camera at the North Hanley security office at the MetroLink station.

County Police Chief Jon Belmar initiated the investigation in July after Post-Dispatch columnist Tony Messenger published a series of reports alleging misconduct by officers.

The series was based largely on

See METROLINK • Page A5

Education chief is ousted by new gubernatorial appointees

BY KRISTEN TAKETA AND KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

JEFFERSON CITY • Missouri's top educator has been fired in what was a drawn-out but ultimately successful political move by Gov. Eric Greitens.

Five people whom Greitens appointed to the Missouri Board of Education in the past four months — including one board member appointed just Thursday — voted to remove Missouri Education Commissioner Margie Vandeven. The vote was 5-3.

Vandeven

The state board then voted 7-1 to appoint Deputy Commissioner Roger

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TOMORROW
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PARTLY CLOUDY
WEATHER
B10

Strategic retreat

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Cards meeting with Stanton's reps
SPORTS

Suspect charged in teacher's shooting • A3
Pizza delivery man shoots, kills robber • A3
Blues close homestand with loss to LA • B1
Beckner will return to Mizzou for 2018 • B1

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